

Research in Traffic psychology in Italy

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ABSTRACT

The Research Unit in Traffic Psychology was founded in 2007 within the Department of Psychology of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Milan. The Research Unit's team is made up of scientific researchers, traffic psychologists and professionals who are experts in a range of disciplines related to traffic psychology (cognitive psychology, ergonomics, analysis of road accident dynamics, intervention in emergency situations, trauma management) and has decades of experience in research on the "traffic system" and the deepening of the relationship between man and vehicle, the interactions between the many road users (drivers, pedestrians, cyclists ...), problems related to mobility (road safety, sustainability). Among the main areas of research: cognitive and perceptual processes of driving behaviour, with particular attention to the perception of risk and dangers (exploration of the visual field, reaction times to a risk, pedestrian detection); influence of emotions on driving behaviour (eg. Driver's anger), acceptability of driver assistance systems (ADAS) and interaction with assistance systems, fitness to drive: assessment and training of driving skills (e.g.: elderly drivers, clinical conditions such as dementia, neurological problems, alcohol abuse, mental disorders), effectiveness of educational programs on road safety and risk perception, analysis of road accidents (reconstruction of dynamics).

Keywords- research ,traffic system, mobility, driving behavior ,risk perception

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